

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. Claim 10 has been amended to clarify Applicants' invention, and this amended claim is believed of equivalent scope to originally filed claim 10. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Claim 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Morton (U.S. Pat. No. 6,365,221). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Morton, in Fig. 3, does not describe a cluster of single arm robots, each mounted to a different surface of a common mounting stand. The Morton robots 14 are not bunched or clustered (see on-line dictionary definitions enclosed for the term "cluster") but are dispersed about the booth. Robots 14 are located on parallel tracks 16 located at opposite sides of the booth for movement along a longitudinal axis of the marine vessel being painted. Robot 22 of Morton is mounted to a separate gantry 20. The Morton robots each have their own dedicated mounting bases 30--not a common mounting stand. Therefore, independent claims 6 and 10 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over Morton.

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 and are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 6. Furthermore, with respect to claim 9, Morton nowhere teaches or suggests a single base equipped with a plurality of arms. Morton teaches a separate base 30 for each robot--not a single shared base.

Claims 1-5 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anfindsen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,309,464). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claims 1, 5 and 12, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Anfindsen Figs. 1 and 3 are devoid of any showing of a robot with a plurality of manipulatable arms. Anfindsen only shows a plurality of robots 14 "adapted to feed paint to twelve spray robots 14 of the type shown in Fig. 1" (emphasis supplied). The robot of Fig. 1 has a single arm and spray nozzle, not a plurality of arms as claimed by Applicants.

Furthermore, there is nothing in the Anfindsen disclosure, either in the drawings or the written description, which teaches or even remotely suggests "at least two of the plurality of arms having different lengths". The Examiner cites Fig. 3, but Fig. 3 only shows a single robot arm. Fig. 4 shows 2 robots, each with a single arm. These two arms appear to be of equal length, and there is nothing in the written description suggesting they are of unequal length. Therefore, claims 1, 5 and 12 and dependent claims 2-4 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over Anfindsen.


Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 20, 2005

By: 
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GKH/al



cluster

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clus·ter **Pronunciation Key** (klŭs'tər)
n.

1. A group of the same or similar elements gathered or occurring closely together; a bunch: "She held out her hand, a small tight cluster of fingers" (Anne Tyler).
2. *Linguistics.* Two or more successive consonants in a word, as *cl* and *st* in the word *cluster*.
3. A group of academic courses in a related area.

v. **clus·tered, clus·ter·ing, clus·ters**

v. intr.

To gather or grow into bunches.

v. tr.

To cause to grow or form into bunches.

[Middle English, from Old English *clyster*.]

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English*

Language, Fourth Edition
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cluster

n : a grouping of a number of similar things; "a bunch of trees"; "a cluster of admirers" [syn: bunch, clump, clustering]
v 1: come together as in a cluster or flock; "The poets constellate in this town every summer" [syn: constellate, flock, clump] 2: gather or cause to gather into a cluster; "She bunched her fingers into a fist"; "The students bunched up at the registration desk" [syn: bunch, bunch up, bundle, clump]

Source: *WordNet* ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

cluster

<file system> An elementary unit of allocation of a disk made up of one or more physical blocks.

A file is made up of a whole number of possibly non-contiguous clusters. The cluster size is a tradeoff between space efficiency (the bigger is the cluster, the bigger is on the average the wasted space at the end of each file) and the length of the FAT.

(1996-11-04)

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, © 1993-2005 Denis Howe

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Application Clustering

High Availability.
 Scalability. Hot standby.
 Manageability.
www.emicnetworks.com

Grid Computing

A Different Kind of Grid Workload:
 Commercial Data Integration.
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AMD Quad Opteron

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Main Entry: cluster**Part of Speech:** *noun***Definition:** group
Synonyms: array, assemblage, band, batch, bevy, blob, body, bunch, bundle, chunk, clump, clutch, collection, covey, crew, gathering, hunk, knot, lot, pack, party, set
Antonyms: [individual](#)

Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: cluster**Part of Speech:** *verb***Definition:** assemble
Synonyms: accumulate, aggregate, associate, bunch, bunch up, bundle, collect, crowd around, cumulate, flock, gang around, gather, group, package, parcel, round up
Antonyms: [disperse](#), [dissemble](#), [scatter](#)

Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: array**Part of Speech:** *noun* 1

Definition: collection

Synonyms: arrangement, body, bunch, bundle, clump, batch, cluster, design, display, disposition, exhibition, formation, host, lineup, lot set, multitude, order, parade, pattern, show, supply, throng

Antonyms: disarray, disorder, mess

Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: assembly

Part of Speech: *noun 1*

Definition: congregation

Synonyms: accumulation, aggregation, assemblage, association, band, body, bunch, clambake, cluster, coffee klatch, collection, company, conclave, confab, conference, convocation, council, crew, crowd, faction, flock, gathering, get-together, group, huddle, mass, meet, meeting, multitude, rally, sit-in, throng, turnout

Antonyms: disbanding, dispersal, scattering

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Main Entry: band

Part of Speech: *noun 2*

Definition: group

Synonyms: assembly, association, bevy, body, bunch, clique, club, cluster, collection, company, corps, coterie, covey, crew, gang, gathering, horde, menagerie, outfit, party, society, troop, troupe

Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: batch

Part of Speech: *noun*

Definition: group

Synonyms: accumulation, aggregation, amount, array, assemblage, assortment, bunch, bundle, clump, cluster, clutch, collection, crowd, group, lot, pack, parcel, quantity, set, shipment, volume

Antonyms: individual, single

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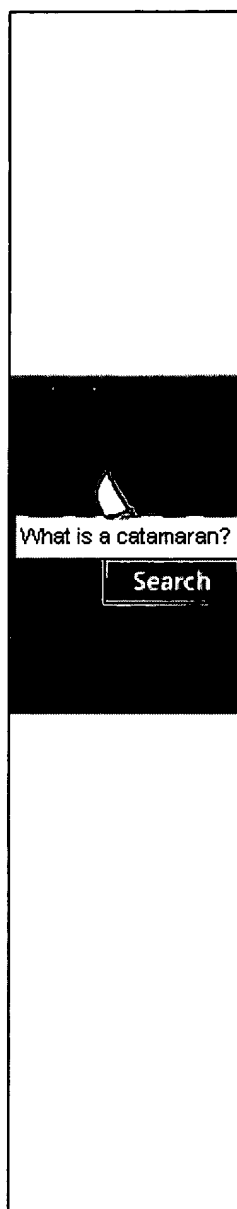
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Main Entry: battery
Part of Speech: *noun 1*
Definition: series
Synonyms: array, batch, body, bunch, bundle, chain, clot, clump, cluster, group, lot, ring, sequence, set, suite
Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: bevy
Part of Speech: *noun*
Definition: swarm
Synonyms: assembly, band, bunch, cluster, collection, company, covey, crew, crowd, flight, flock, gathering, group, pack, party, troupe
Antonyms: individual, one
Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: body
Part of Speech: *noun 5*
Definition: crowd
Synonyms: array, batch, bunch, bundle, clump, cluster, group, horde, lot, majority, mass, mob, multitude, parcel, party, set, throng
Antonyms: few, handful, minority
Source: *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*
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Main Entry: bunch
Part of Speech: *noun*
Definition: collection
Synonyms: agglomeration, assemblage, assortment, band, batch, bevy, blob, bouquet, bundle, caboodle, chunk, clump, cluster, covey, crew, crowd, fascicle, flock, galaxy, gang, gathering, group, heap, host, hunk, knot, lot, mass, mess, mob, multitude, number, oodles, pack, parcel, party, passel, pile, quantity, sheaf, shebang, shock, spray,

stack, swarm, team, thicket, troop, tuft,
tussock

Antonyms: individual

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